

Serial No. 10/669,689

**REMARKS**

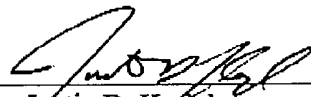
By way of the above amendments, claims 1-23 have been canceled, and claims 24-41 have been added. As such, claims 24-41 are presently pending.

The newly added claims add no new subject matter and their entry is respectfully requested. The protein-coding sequence of nucleotides 211-1713 (as recited in claims 24, 26, and 28) or 211-1716 (as recited in claim 25) of SEQ ID NO:1 is identified in Figure 1B, which shows a start codon beginning at nucleotide 211 and a stop codon at nucleotides 1714-1716 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in condition for examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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